

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1149

By Gilmore

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Marilyn Robinson of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Marilyn Robinson of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Robinson was an exemplary individual and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a champion for small and minority business owners, Marilyn Robinson served as the executive director of the Nashville Minority Business Center, a position she had held since 1998 after an exemplary thirteen-year tenure as project director of the Nashville Minority Business Development Center; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Robinson also operated the One Fund, which provided small and minority business owners with access to capital and provided technical assistance to business owners who needed to better understand the accounting and public contracting aspects of business; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Robinson served for thirty-five years as the coordinator of the Minority Enterprise Development Week Conference, known as MEDWeek, as part of the national celebration to recognize minority business contributions to the national economy; and

WHEREAS, an advocate for many of the economic prosperity measures undertaken by her adopted city, Ms. Robinson was especially proud of her persistent encouragement for Nashville to complete two disparity studies to document the inequities in government contracting in 1998 and 2018; and

WHEREAS, she played an instrumental role in the unanimous passage by the Metro Council of the historic Equal Business Opportunity legislation to remove the barriers for minority businesses to compete in government contracting in Nashville and Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, an active part of her community, Ms. Robinson served on numerous boards and commissions for a variety of civic and charitable organizations, including Nashville Electric Service; Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Convention Center Commission; Leadership Nashville Class of 1999; AAA Residential Resources, Inc.; NAACP, Nashville Chapter; and 100 Black Women Metropolitan Nashville Chapter, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, she was a member of Nashville Foundation for Women of Color, Incorporated, and the Music City Chapter of The Links, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Marilyn Robinson received her bachelor's degree in business administration and finance from LeMoyne-Owen College and relocated to Nashville in 1984; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Robinson was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Marilyn Robinson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Marilyn Robinson, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Robinson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to

the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.